

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, EC, PE
SUBJECT: PERUVIAN VIOLATIONS OF ECUADORIAN AIR AND SEA
SPACE AND GOE FEARS OF RENEWED INCIDENTS

1. SUMMARY: REPEATED PERUVIAN VIOLATIONS OF ECUADORIAN TERRITORY SINCE MAY 12 HAVE AROUSED ECUADORIAN FEARS THAT GOP MIGHT AGAIN, AS IN JANUARY, ATTEMPT TO USE BORDER INCIDENTS TO DIVERT INTERNAL DISCONTENT. GOE HAS TAKEN MEASURES TO AVOID FURTHER INCIDENTS THROUGH INFORMAL CONTACT WITH GOP, BY NOT REACTING WITH FORCE TO THE INCIDENTS, AND BY RESTRAINING ACTIVITIES OF ECUADORIAN ARMED FORCES. FOREIGN MINISTER AYALA WILL DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA PUENTE IN NEW YORK AT THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT NEXT WEEK. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED CHARGE TO INFORM USG OF SITUATION. END SUMMARY.
2. FOREIGN MINISTER JOSE AYALA, JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK TO ATTEND THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT, INFORMED THE CHARGE ON AFTERNOON OF MAY 21 THAT PERUVIAN VIOLATIONS

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OF ECUADORIAN TERRITORY DURING PAST FEW DAYS HAVE ALARMED GOE. HE STRESSED THAT GOE RESPONSES HAVE BEEN MEASURED SO AS TO AVOID PROVOKING THE GOP OR TO PROVIDE PERU A PRETEXT FOR AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT. AYALA SAID GOE IS FRUSTRATED AND MYSTIFIED BY GOP ACTIONS, BUT SPECULATED THAT GOP MIGHT BE SEEKING A WAY TO DIVERT INTERNAL DISCONTENT, AS AYALA SAID WAS THE CASE IN JANUARY. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE

HAD INSTRUCTED HIS MINISTRY TO PROVIDE THE EMBASSY COMPLETE FACTS ON MONDAY, MAY 23, ABOUT THE INCIDENTS, BUT HAD WANTED TO INFORM CHARGE PERSONALLY OF THE SITUATION PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM QUITO, SO THAT THE CHARGE WOULD INFORM USG.

3. ACCORDING TO AYALA, ON MAY 12 A TAME COMMERCIAL AIRLINER JUST MISSED COLLIDING WITH TWO PERUVIAN AIRFORCE A-37 AIRCRAFT THAT WERE FLYING 100 KILOMETERS WITHIN ECUADORIAN TERRITORY. THE TAME PLANE, WHICH WAS ON A SCHEDULED FLIGHT TO LOJA, WAS PUT INTO A DIVE BY THE PILOT TO PREVENT AN ACCIDENT. AFTER RAPID CONSULTATION WITHIN THE GOE, ADMIRAL OLMEDO, THE CHIEF OF THE JOINT COMMAND, CALLED PERUVIAN ADMIRAL PARODI BY TELEPHONE TO DISCUSS THE INCIDENT. PARODI REPORTEDLY SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER, AND CALLED BACK TO APOLOGIZE AND TO SAY THAT THE PERUVIAN PLANES HAD EVIDENTLY STRAYED INTO ECUADORIAN AIR SPACE BY MISTAKE. HE ASSURED THAT THE A-37'S WERE NOT FLYING ORDERED MILITARY MISSIONS INTO ECUADOR. FOREIGN MINISTER AYALA THEN DISCUSSED THE MATTER VERBALLY WITH PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR TO ECUADOR GARCIA, BUT MADE NO WRITTEN PROTEST, SO AS KEEP THE MATTER AS LOW KEY AS POSSIBLE.

4. THE VERY NEXT DAY, MAY 13, AYALA DAID A PERUVIAN WARSHIP WAS ENCOUNTERD WELL WITHIN ECUADORIAN CLAIMED WATERS NEAR AN ECUADORIAN ISLAND. ADMIRAL OLMEDO AGAIN CALLED ADMIRAL PARODI, REPORTED TO HIM THE LOCATION OF THE VESSEL, AND SAID
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THE ECUADORAIN NAVY NEEDED TO KNOW THE PURPOSE OF THE SHIP'S VOYAGE INTO ECUADORIAN CLAIMED WATERS IN ORDER TO RESPOND WTIH APPROAPRITE HONORS, ETC. ADMIRAL PARODI EVIDENTLY AGAINS APOLOGIZED. THE GOE AGAIN CHOSE TO MAKE NO FORMAL PROTEST.

5. ON EITHER MAY 15 OR 16 (AYALY WAS NOT CLEAR), ABOUT 20 PERUVIAN FISHING WITHOUT LICENSES AS FAR NORTH AS SALINAS IN ECUADORAIN CLAIMED WATERS. THE VESSELS WERE ESCORTED BY THE ECUADORIAN NAVY BACK TO PERUVIAN WATERS, NO ARRESTS WERE MADE, AND NO FINES LEVIED. ON TWO OTHER DAYS OF THIS PAST WEEK, PERUVIAN FISHING VESSELS WERE AGAIN CAUGHT WELL WITHIN ECUADORIAN CLAIMED WATERS, AND WERE ESCORTED BACK TO PERUVIAN CLAIMED WATERS WITHOUT SANCTION BY THE GOE.

6. FOREIGN MINISTER AYALA SAID THAT TOP OFFICIALS OF THE ECUADORIAN ARMED FORCES AND THE GOE SEVERAL TIMES IN EMERGENCY AND SECRET SESSIONTO DETERMINE THE GOE'S RESPONSE. HE SAID ONE LINE OF ARGUMENT WAS THAT THE GOE SHOULD REACT BY ORDERING IT'S ARMED FORCES TO FIRE ON ANY PERUVIAN MILITARY AIRCRAT OR WARSHIPS FOUND WITHIN ECUADORIAN TERRITORY WITHOUT PRIOR CLEARANCE OF THE GOE. AYALA SAID THAT HIS AND HOTHERS' COUNSEL HAD PREVAILED HOWEVER, AND THAT THE GOE HAD EVEN

RESTRICTED IT'S OWN MILITARY PLANES FROM FLYING NEAR THE FRONTIER TO PREVENT POSSIBLE INCIDENTS. THE GOE AGREED, AYALA SAID, FOR HIM TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT WITH DE LA PUENTE IN NEW YORK. HE CAUTIONED, THOUGH, THAT THERE WAS A LIMIT TO WHAT EXTENT THE GOE COULD ALLOW PERUVIAN ARMED FORCES TO ENTER ECUADORIAN TERRITORY AS WISHED WITH IMPUNITY.

7. THE FOREIGN MINISTER REMARKED ON THE IRONY OF THE SUCCESS THAT THE PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS HAD IN CONVINCING THIRD PARTIES THAT INCIDENTS WITH ECUADOR ARE ALWAYS THE AAULT OF ECUADORIANS AND DERIVE FROM INTERNAL ECUADORIAN PROBLEMS. THE CHARGE ASSURED AYALA THAT THE USG HAS AN IMPARTIAL AND OBJECTIVE VIEW THESE PROBLEMS BETWEEN OUR TWO FRIENDS, AND THAT WE ALSO HAVE A FAIRLY GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE
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INTERNAL SITUATION OF BOTH COUNTRIES. THE CHARGE WISHED AYALA SUCCESS IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH DE LA PUENTE.
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